



Superior Court of California County of Riverside

Criminal Cases during the COVID-19 Statewide Emergency and Court Closure Frequently Asked Questions

Date: April 20, 2020

The following Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document is designed to address incoming questions during the Court's COVID-19 closure period. It will be updated as needed, however, this is an ever-changing, fluid situation. We appreciate your patience.

1. How are hearings on calendar being reset (continued) during the statewide emergency and court closure period?

A: The Riverside Superior Court is reviewing criminal calendars on a daily basis, and based on either the general orders re: implementation of emergency relief authorized pursuant to Government Code section 68115, general orders re: implementation of statewide orders signed by the Chief Justice, the the statewide order made by the Chief Justice on March 23, 2020, or the adoption of the Emergency Rules under Appendix I of the California Rules of Court, is making individual orders to continue the hearing. The court clerk is sending notice of new hearing dates. However, attorneys and parties are encouraged to check the status of their case online through [Riverside Public Access](#) regularly to confirm their newly scheduled dates.

2. Is the Court conducting video arraignments for those arrestees who are detained in-custody pending the filing of criminal charges?

A: Yes. The Riverside Superior Court is using Court Call to conduct Video In-Custody Arraignments. In consultation with local justice partners, the Court began testing this solution on March 23, 2020 and deployed to all criminal courtrooms hearing in-custody arraignments on March 30, 2020.

3. What court locations are hearing in-custody video arraignments?

A: The following court locations are hearing misdemeanor and felony in-custody video arraignments:

Blythe Cases: Blythe Courthouse, department 260 (Tuesday and Thursday Only)

Banning Cases: Hall of Justice, department 41

Indio Cases: Larson Justice Center, department 3T

Murrieta Cases: Southwest Justice Center, department S204

Riverside Cases: Hall of Justice, department 63

Please note that attendance of a court hearing will not available to the general public during this closure period. All attorneys entering local courthouses must show their bar or employee cards upon entrance at weapons screening stations. Only witnesses properly subpoenaed will be allowed to enter and should be accompanied by an attorney or must show their subpoena. Witness or defendant family, friends, or companions will not be permitted to enter unless lawfully permitted as a victim support person.

4. Is the Court adopting a new bail schedule during the statewide emergency?

A: Yes, the Riverside Superior Court adopted a temporary emergency bail schedule on March 27, 2020. The court then amended the [Temporary Emergency Bail Schedule](#) to implement the Judicial Council's Emergency Rule 4 on bail on issued on April 6, 2020.

5. How can I submit a bail motion, stipulation or schedule a bail hearing?

In conjunction with local justice partners, the Riverside Superior Court has developed a written stipulation and order process for the review of O.R. Release, Bail and Bail Reduction. Upon a meet and confer by counsel, the following local forms can be utilized:

[Stipulation and Order in Support of O.R. / Bail / Bail Reduction \(RI-CR076\)](#)
[Agreement for Own Recognizance Release \(RI-CR013\)](#)

Based on the court location, the completed stipulation and order forms can then be sent via email to:

Riverside & Banning: RIVORBailStips@riverside.courts.ca.gov

Murrieta (Southwest): SWORBailStips@riverside.courts.ca.gov

Blythe & Indio: INDORBailStips@riverside.courts.ca.gov

Other types of bail motions, or stipulations, can be submitted through the court's [eSubmit](#) Document Submission Portal.

6. Will the Court hold a preliminary hearing calendar during the statewide emergency and closure period?

A: During the closure period, all preliminary examinations with no time waiver are being calendared by the court. Notice will be provided by the court clerk of the preliminary hearing. The following court locations are handling preliminary examinations:

Blythe Cases: Blythe Courthouse, department 260 (*Tuesday Only*)

Banning Cases: Hall of Justice, department 44

Indio Cases: Larson Justice Center, department 3N

Murrieta Cases: Southwest Justice Center, department S301

Riverside Cases: Hall of Justice, department 44

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7. Will telephonic or video appearances be available to counsel during the closure period?

Yes, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and related health directives, the Court has exercised its authority under the Judicial Council's Emergency Order to permit telephonic and video appearances in criminal matters.

8. How will the Court accommodate social distancing and other health and safety measures during any in-person court appearances?

A: The Court and its justice partners are making every effort to comply with the most current health directives offered by Riverside County Public Health. Some of these measures include the following:

- The Court is operating through remote telephone and video opportunities to the greatest extent possible.
- All court attendees are directed to comply with social distancing guidelines (6-foot separation), wherever possible, and wear a face covering at all times while in public spaces.
- No more than 10 participants should be present in a courtroom at any time.
- Court participants must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other and are encouraged to use courtroom layouts to facilitate that separation (*e.g., stand on either sides of the “bar” or counsel table*).
- Those feeling ill and experiencing flu-like symptoms, have a fever, are coughing or sneezing, should not come to the courthouse; either secure another attorney to specially appear, or contact the courtroom clerk to appear telephonically or by video.

9. Is a magistrate available to law enforcement during the closure period?

A: Yes. During this closure period, law enforcement agencies have the option to electronically deliver search warrant requests to a **daytime On Call Magistrate** following the same protocols used when requesting approval of an after-hours search warrant. However, a daytime duty judge for arrest or search warrants is available at the Larson Justice Center, Southwest Justice Center, Riverside Hall of Justice and Blythe Courthouse.

All daytime emergency protective order (EPO) requests are to be directed to the EPO phone during regular court business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Night and Weekend Magistrate services are still available.